The Cochin Free Compulsory Primary Education Bill.

Preamble.

Whereas it is expedient to provide for free, compulsory, primary education and make better provision for the extension and local supervision of primary education, it is hereby enacted as follows :—

Title and Preamble were put and carried.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—I move that the Bill may be taken up and finally passed at the next meeting of the Council.

Motion was put and carried.

The Cochin Nambudiri Kudumba Bill.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—I beg to move that the Cochin Numbudiri Kudumba Bill be read in Council.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—I second it.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur Rural).*—I oppose it, not because the Nambudiries do not require a Bill for the better advancement of the community in the State. I oppose it simply because it is a retrograde measure. The framer of the Bill wanted to give legislative sanction to old, meaningless, antediluvian and obnoxious customs which are prevailing among the Numbudiries. The Nambudiripads and Bhattathiripads and others are trying their level best to shed these customs one by one and from the way in which they have felicitated His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore for the temple entry Proclamation we can see the change brought about among them. The bill wants to give legislative sanction to the most obnoxious heinous custom of polygamy. The framer of this bill had occasion to know from the women of that community that they were against that system. When they were asked whether that should be made penal, they said that they should not only be punished with fine but that they should be sent to jail. The member also wanted to give the right given to Nair women under the Nair Regulation to have a share in the intestate property of the Nambudiri husband. He has been careful enough to entice the Nambudiries by throwing out to them the sop of partition. These Nambudiries have hitherto been confined to their houses and they did not know how to spend their money because they had no right over it. Now the framer of

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